



The California Prenatal Screening Program

California Department of Public Health
Genetic Disease Screening Program

Program Information and Update, June 2014

Reproductive Health and the Environment

The Prenatal Screening Program patient booklet and consent now contains information about environmental toxins and reproductive health.

We encounter chemicals and other substances in everyday life that may affect the developing fetus. Fortunately, there are steps we can take to reduce exposure to these potentially harmful substances at home, in the workplace, and in the environment. Many people are unaware that a number of everyday consumer products may pose potential harm. Prospective parents should talk to their doctor and are encouraged to read more about this topic to learn about simple actions to promote a healthy pregnancy.

At the University of California, San Francisco, the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment produces *All That Matters* brochures. These are guides that provide tips and suggestions for avoiding toxic chemical exposure at home, in the workplace and in the community. The brochures include:

- **Toxic Matters** – Provides tips for pregnant women and women who want to become pregnant on how to avoid toxic chemicals.
- **Cuestiones de Salud** – a Spanish language edition of **Toxic Matters**.
- **Work Matters** – Explains how to prevent toxic exposures in the work place, and how pregnant women can secure their rights to a safe and healthy work environment.
- **Food Matters: What to Eat?** – Explains how to select foods with lower exposure to toxic chemicals.
- **Pesticides Matter** – Provides tips on avoiding exposure to pesticides at work and at home and how to protect one's family.

All That Matters brochures are available online at: <http://www.prhe.ucsf.edu/prhe/allthatmatters.html>.

For more detailed information, the American Academy of Pediatrics produces **Pediatric Environmental Health**, a comprehensive guide on a wide range of environmental health issues.

Reminder: All patients first seen for prenatal care prior to 20 weeks gestation should be given a copy of the **California Prenatal Screening Program patient booklet and consent**.

Clinicians should retain their copy of the signed consent/refusal form in the patient's chart.

Ensure 3rd Trimester Moms Get Tdap Vaccine

Pertussis is epidemic in California. ACOG and CDC urge prenatal care providers to **immunize all pregnant women between 27 and 36 weeks gestation with Tdap vaccine during EACH pregnancy**, even if they have previously received Tdap. Maternal antibodies may protect infants too young to be vaccinated, who are at greatest risk of severe illness and death.

The California Department of Public Health asks that you complete this 5-minute survey about use of Tdap vaccine in your facility:
<http://bit.do/OBSurvey>

For more information, visit:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/tdap-pregnancy-hcp.htm

New NIPT Policies Effective March 24, 2014

1. Prenatal Screen Positive result, and NIPT outside the Program is “Positive” for Down syndrome, Trisomy 18, Trisomy 13 or a Sex Chromosome Abnormality, now authorized for referral

California Prenatal Screening Program patients who are Screen Positive for Down syndrome and/or Trisomy 18 or Large NT **and** who have had NIPT outside the Prenatal Screening Program with a “positive” NIPT result for Down syndrome, Trisomy 18, Trisomy 13 or any of the sex chromosome abnormalities are authorized for Prenatal Diagnosis Center referral. A patient is not authorized for referral through the Program with an NIPT result which is “positive” due only to a micro-deletion/duplication result.

2. Second Trimester Down syndrome and Trisomy 18 Risk Assessment for Patients with prior NIPT

The ordering clinician now has the option of obtaining or not obtaining a Down syndrome and Trisomy 18 risk assessment on second trimester Prenatal Screening Program results **for patients who have had prior NIPT**. Future versions of the test form will reflect this change. For the current forms, where the “CVS” box serves for both CVS and NIPT:

If the ordering clinician **does not want to receive second trimester risk assessment** for the chromosomal abnormalities for patients with NIPT results, continue to mark the CVS box as “YES” (for NIPT) to only receive risks for neural tube defects and SLOS.

If the ordering clinician **wants to receive second trimester risk assessment** for the chromosomal abnormalities, check the CVS box as “NO” unless the patient actually had CVS.

Prenatal Screening Program Fee

Effective July 1, 2014, the fee for the Program will be \$207. The fee covers the blood tests for all women and authorized follow-up services for women who are “Screen Positive” in the Program.

Patients should contact their health insurance providers to determine their plan’s payment or co-pay for prenatal screening.

Articles in this newsletter include:

New NIPT policies for the California Prenatal Screening Program

Reproductive Health and the Environment

Protect Vulnerable Infants from Pertussis:
Immunize mothers with Tdap in every pregnancy

California Prenatal Screening Program Fee Increase

Reminder to give all prenatal patients the California Prenatal Screening Program Patient Booklet



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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